

THE
C A S E

OF THE
PERSECUTED AND OPPRESSED
PROTESTANTS

In the
German Empire:

MEMORIAL;

Which was lately presented at VIENNA

TO HIS

Imperial Majesty,

By His Majesty the King of SWEDEN'S
Ambassador Extraordinary, the Count of Gyllenborg.

In the SAVOY,

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THE

OF THE
PRESENTED AND OPENED

PROTESTANT

In London

God and His

1740-80

Laid open in a

MEMORIAL

TO THE

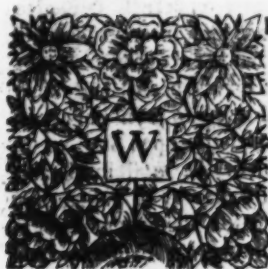
Importance of

By His Majesty the King of GREAT BRITAIN

FOR THE

And by the

May it please Your Sacred Imperial
and Royal Majesty,



Whereas His Sacred Royal Majesty, my most gracious Lord and Master, doth cherish a good and due opinion of Your Sacred Imperial Majesties Equity and Indulgence upon all occasions; so doth He, with the greatest confidence, rely on, and most earnestly request the same, as to the Straits and necessities of the most afflicted Protestants living within your Kingdoms and Provinces: For Honour, Conscience, and not onely Christianity, but even Humanity it self urge it. His Royal Majesty had indeed much rather have spared the mention of a thing so often repeated, nor would he have stirred any more in this business, had the Promises so often made formerly, and now lately renewed by the Count of Sternbengh, *That those of the Auspurg. Confession should be so treated, that neither they, nor any other Protestants in their name, should have any occasion of complaint, obtained hitherto the due and hoped effect; and if nothing had been done against them, contrary to the Grace and Indulgence so certainly promised them by Your Imperial Majesty: But how far otherwise it fares with them hitherto, and how notoriously miserable their condition, although it may perhaps be concealed by the cunning of some Zealots, who intercept the Groans of the oppressed Protestants from coming to the most benigne Ear of Your Sacred Imperial Majesty; yet His Sacred Royal Majesty hath, to His no small grief, understood, by no less sad then certain relations. And he hopes, that Your Imperial Majesty will not think strange, if he cannot behold, without regret, and without interposing in their behalf, that His own Religion should, in those of the same Profession, suffer so dismal a Persecution; and under this colour, that so many, not onely innocent, but well-deserving persons, ruined in all their Fortunes, should be exposed to the most exquisite Contumelies and mockeries, and that the Protestant Ministers, especially in the Cities of Hungary, Leopoldsdorfe, Capuarina, Camara, and others, being most violently seized on, should be pillaged, and insolently abused, and beat with stripes, starved with hunger and nakedness, be thrust down in a most loathsome and horrible Prisons, among Snakes and Toades; and moreover so bound and manacled, that they want all defence to help themselves against the Venomous Creatures; and that even where they are most favourably dealt with, and suffered to live above ground, that there being compelled to Employments, not so laborious, but the most filthy and noisome that can be invented, loaded perpetually with Chains more cruelly, than those that are guilty of the most heinous Parricides or Treasons, without all commiseration, without any satiety in mocking, abusing them, they should lead a life, than which, Hell it self may seem more tolerable. To this may be added, that to deprive their Souls and Consciences of all Means of Instruction, all Schools and all Helps of good Education and Piety, by which their Youth ought in their tender age to be brought up, and formed*

for life and serviceableness, and to a faithful subjection towards Your Imperial Majesty, are, without any regard to the maintenance of Publick Faith, absolutely refused them. That I may not pass by, how even they are not allowed Baptism by the Hands of Protestant Ministers; that the use of their Churches, either by their own Bloud gained from the *Turk*, or at the Protestants own Charges built by the Imperial Consent and Permission, is refused them. It is in earnest very sad, that the things of this World should so far be preferred before those of Heaven; that, while Players and Mountebanks have Places assigned, nay, and Priviledges granted them, and so much tenderness is used to that sort of People, which never is without nuisance and inconvenience to others; those that have embraced Christ, and are neither troublesome, nor incommodious to the Publick, but do seriously pray for the health and safety of Your Imperial Majesty, are in the mean time debarred to joyn in Prayer, under a mean Shed, where it rains through; nay, under the open Sky, or in the privacy of their own Houses, and that under pain of the most intolerable punishments. It is far from His Sacred Royal Majesty, hereby to impute any fault to your Imperial Majesty, a Prince so renowned for Clemency, Equity, and Honour; especially when He calls to memory, how great Evidences You have given of a Mind, deservedly abhorring and condemning this manner of proceeding, so barbarous, so contrary to the gentle Rule of Christ, and the Apostolick Example of Charity, nor onely by Your benign Answers and Promises declared to His Sacred Royal Majesty, by His Ministers; but also by Your Praiseworthy Edicts, published in favour of the Protestants, after the Example of Your Predecessors of most Glorious Memory, who disdained not to own the Protestants among their faithful Subjects, and to interpose their Authority for securing them. But while those miserable Persons confide in those Records, and Your Imperial Majesty emulates the Renown of Your Ancestors, with a worthy tenderness towards them, and all others; it so happens, that the Fruit of so great a Virtue, and of so great a Benefit, is blasted, both as to Your Imperial Majesty, and those for whom it was design'd; and that Your Inviolable Imperial Word is eluded and infringed, by I know not what tricks and pretences, the miserable Protestants never lived in less security, then after the obtaining the Imperial Declarations and Laws for their security, as if they were made onely for a time, not so much for the safeguard of the Afflicted, as for a show of Clemency, but not to avail against the Cruelty of Persecution. The Authors of this Calamity might have discharged their Duty much better, would they have endeavoured to maintain Your Imperial Honour and Dignity, by an Execution conformable to Your so Benign Imperial Intention, rather than to undermine and overthrow it for Profane, far from Pious purposes. By which it comes to that pass at last, that it is not lawful for Men to be Godly, Honest, and Loyal, and so many Christian and most Sincere Souls being driven out of the Dominion of Your Imperial Majesty, are, which is a thing most miserable, bound under the yoke of the *Turkish* Slavery.

His Royal Majesty would not deprecate the utmost severity against the Protestant Subjects of Your Imperial Majesty, if their dissenting not from the Foundation of Christian Salvation, but from some Additions to the Apostolical Doctrines, did involve them in any Crimes or Wickedness; if this their Non-conformity in Religion did corrupt their Loyalty, or the Civil Happiness; if the Protestants did by Seditious Counsels rise up against Your Imperial Majesty; if by Riots or Irregular Tumults they attempted upon Your Supreme Authority; if they avoided any Duty of most Loyal Subjects; or if they obeyed Your Commands with less readiness than the Papists: But seeing the contrary

contrary is manifest to all men, notwithstanding the false Gloſs of Conſpiracy, or being Complices therein, wherewith their Perſecutions are for the moſt part coloured; whereas the Proteſtants live quietly and peaceably, and approve themſelves; as becomes them, towards their Prince, and do ſo much abhor the Crime of Treason or Diſloyalty, that there is nothing which they do more earneſtly deprecate, than the neceſſity of parting with their Allegiance; nor any are more ready, than they, to ſacrifice their Eſtates, their Bodies, and their Lives, for Your Imperial Majeſty, againſt the Infidels; onely deſiring to keep their Souls untainted. Let thoſe, who are the Authours of theſe ſevere Counſels againſt them, conſider well, what account they can make to His Imperial Majeſty, if thoſe fatal Accidents, which may enſue hereupon, but, which God forbid, ſhould at ſome time or other, turn your ſeverity upon themſelves.

His Sacred Royal Majeſty hath in the mean time commanded me, to repreſent to Your Imperial Majeſty, how clear and remarkable the words are of the *Instrument of Peace*, in favour of the Proteſtants inhabiting the Kingdoms and Provinces of Your Imperial Majeſty, and of the moſt Setene Houſe of *Austria*, whereby the free Exerciſe of Religion is inviolably, explicity, and by name granted to ſome of them, and particularly to thoſe of *Sileſia*; The condition of others in this matter is reſpited to another time, to be diſpatched by the Amicable interpoſition of His Royal Majeſty, and the humble Interceſſion (which has, notwithstanding, hitherto been ſo vainly attempted) of the States of the *Auſpurg* Confeſſion. Verily it can ſcarce be believed, without injuring thoſe, who laboured in that ſo pious and ſincere Agreement, that they did add this Clause in vain, (though ſuch it hath hitherto proved) or that they intended to delude theſe miſerable Perſons with deceitful hopes: Forasmuch therefore, is no leſs in reſpect to the Publick Honour and Dignity, than to the Nature of all Agreements, the Words of that Clause ought to operate ſomething; the leaſt that they can operate muſt be, that the Proteſtants may be left however in the ſame ſtate that they were, when the Peace was concluded. And His Royal Majeſty hopes, that Your Imperial Majeſty will no more inſiſt upon the Diſtinction uſed by the Count of *Sternberg* in *Sweden*, between the Dutchieſ of *Sileſia*, belonging to Your Royal Chamber and Table, and others, and upon the excluding of *Hungary* from theſe Kingdoms of Your Imperial Majeſty, which are comprehended in the Senſe of the Pacification: Seeing neither that Diſtinction, nor this Excluſion, hath any foundation at all in the *Instrument of Peace*, but doth rather directly oppoſe it. Which things being ſo, His Royal Majeſty doth, with all the power that He properly hath of intreating and prevailing with Your Imperial Majeſty, for thoſe oppreſſed Proteſtants, groaning under ſo great rigor and cruelty of Inquiſitions, beſeech and conjure Your Imperial Majeſty, by the Rights of the Friendſhip, and ſincere Correſpondence perpetually to be obſerved with Your Imperial Majeſty, by the Publick Tranquillity, by Your own Clemency, by Your Honour, and even by Your Self, that in conformity to the Priviledges granted by your moſt Auguſt Anceſtors, and by Your Self to the Proteſtants, and to the Publick Laws and Agreements, You would command, that they may have liberty of Conſcience; and that reſtoring in Your Kingdoms and Hereditary Provinces the Exerciſe of their Religion, together with their Churches, Seminaries and Schools, which heretofore belonged to them, You would deign once for all, to revive the Spirits of the Proteſtants, drooping under the want of their Divine Worſhip, from that deſperate life, in which at preſent they languish; and that You will think fit to retain them as Yours, who are Yours, both by their Birth, and by the Duty of their inviolated Loyalty. And hereby it will come to paſs, that henceforward

Your Imperial Majesty will be free from all further interruptions of those, who interceed for them, and that as many miserable Persons, as do now with sighs and groans lament unto God their sad condition; so many hereafter shall with Praises Celebrate the Goodness and Equity of their most Indulgent Lord and Emperour, and with most ardent Prayers recommend to Heaven Your Health, Life, and Prosperity.

But in particular, forasmuch as several undoubted Rights and Privileges, which belong by the *Instrument of Peace*, to the Protestants of the Order of Knights, and their Subjects, in the Dutchies of *Silesia*, *Tropaw*, and *Jegerndorffe*, have been divers ways infringed, and as far as possible, utterly torn in pieces, partly by New Articles added two or three years ago to the Provincial Ordinance of *Tropaw*, and partly by sundry bold Attempts of the Missionaries of the Bishop of *Olmutz*; His Sacred Royal Majesty doth exceedingly, and most instantly urge Your Sacred Imperial Majesty, that you would deign to leave inviolate, and maintain not onely the aforesaid Orders of Knights, and their Subjects, in the said Places, but also whatsoever other Protestants, living within the other Dutchies of *Silesia*, in full and quiet Liberty of Conscience, and Education, (as doth most rightly belong by the Publick Agreement) and in the Right appertaining to them hitherto, as well of serving in the Publick Dignities and Offices of the Province, as of purchasing and possessing immovable Goods or Lands therein. And to that purpose, that You would not onely hasten to Cancel the Articles of the said Ordinance, by which this is forbidden; but also either to remove and recall the said Missionaries, or so to bridle their rigid and licentious proceedings, that they may for the future desist from the most unjust violence, they have hitherto exerted, in Reforming Religion in the Cities of *Leobschütz*, *Tafelberg*, and other Territories adjoining. (against which, the three years Intercession and Solicitation of His Royal Majesty hath produced no other effect, than that above four hundred Inhabitants of *Leobschütz* are forced to wander, begging through the Neighbouring Countries) and that You would cause them to restore to the foresaid Order of Knights, without any impediment, the Feudatary Lands hitherto usurped from them: Whereby this also will of consequence follow, by the Clemency and Equity of Your Sacred Imperial Majesty, that those Missionaries shall no longer have power, under pretence of I know not what Contingences of the Stole and such like, to despoil the wretched Protestants of their Estates; especially seeing by this way of proceeding, they do nothing but make in the Dominions of Your Imperial Majesty, a sad solitude for want of good Subjects; they chase away the Inhabitants from their Cities, the Husbandmen from the Land, and compel the otherwise most honest and most Loyal Subjects of Your Imperial Majesty, either to be ill ones, or to have no being.

In the same manner, about the beginning of this Year, at the instances of His Sacred Royal Majesty, and previous to a perpetual Sanction, it was established by Your Sacred Imperial Word, and by Publick Records, that the Protestants living in *Hungary*, and particularly the Citizens of *Edenburg*, who are, if any, signal and devoted in their subjection to Your Imperial Majesty, should have free Exercise of their Religion; yet afterwards it hapned, that their meeting for Divine Worship was removed from *Edenburg* to *Eysenstadt*, whether there is no going safely, or without most grievous inconvenience, by reason of the distance of the Places, and the Passage infested by the Enemy, although there was no probable reason for it; and why the Publick Faith should be in this degree interrupted; unless perhaps, that the Liberty and Rights of the Protestants being loosened and weakened by the dangers and troubles of that change, might, in

in conclusion, be utterly overthrown with the greater facility. His Sacred Royal Majesty therefore, as judging, that nothing doth more belong to Him, and nothing ought to be prosecuted by Him, with more earnest affection, than the safety of those, whom the Communion of the same Religion endeareth to Him, doth Amicably, Brotherly, and most Vehemently request of Your Sacred Imperial Majesty, that You would at length so far consider His so often repeated Interposition, nay, Your own Honour, that the Liberties so graciously confirmed by Your Self to those of *Edenburg*, may have the convenient and desired Effect, and that the Exercise of their Religion, which, contrary to the Tenour of Your Grant, hath been cast out, or (as it hath pleased the Secretary's Office in *Hungary* to express it) banished into a place, so improper, together with the Churches, that have been taken away; and the Schools and Colledges, which are so exceeding necessary, may be restored both to their City, and to the other Cities and Towns, and that they may enjoy them for the future freely, and undisturbed, without any hinderance or violence. His Royal Majesty desires Your Imperial Majesty to be fully perswaded, that You cannot give Him a more evident, or more acceptable Pledge of Your Benign, Friendly, and Brotherly Mind, than by suffering Your Self to be prevailed with in this Matter, by being pleased, to second His most earnest Zeal and Charity towards His afflicted Companions in Religion, and by giving present ease to their calamitous Condition.

These things will extremely increase the Fame of Your Imperial Majesty's Clemency, and will not onely put a most strict Obligation upon His Royal Majesty, but moreover upon so many Electors, Princes, and States of the Sacred Roman Empire, who will reckon themselves to be cherished in the Persons of the Protestants, and will apply their favourable usage unto themselves; and will be so much the more ready, upon that account, to joyn their Arms, as oft as it shall be needful, with those of Your Imperial Majesty, against the Common Enemy, as His Royal Majesty offers Himself most addicted, by all Endeavours and Offices, to Your Imperial Majesty.

And so promising my self an Equitable, Benign, and Speedy Declaration, concerning those things, from Your Imperial Majesty, I recommend my self most submissively to Your accustomed Grace and Favour.



F I N I S.